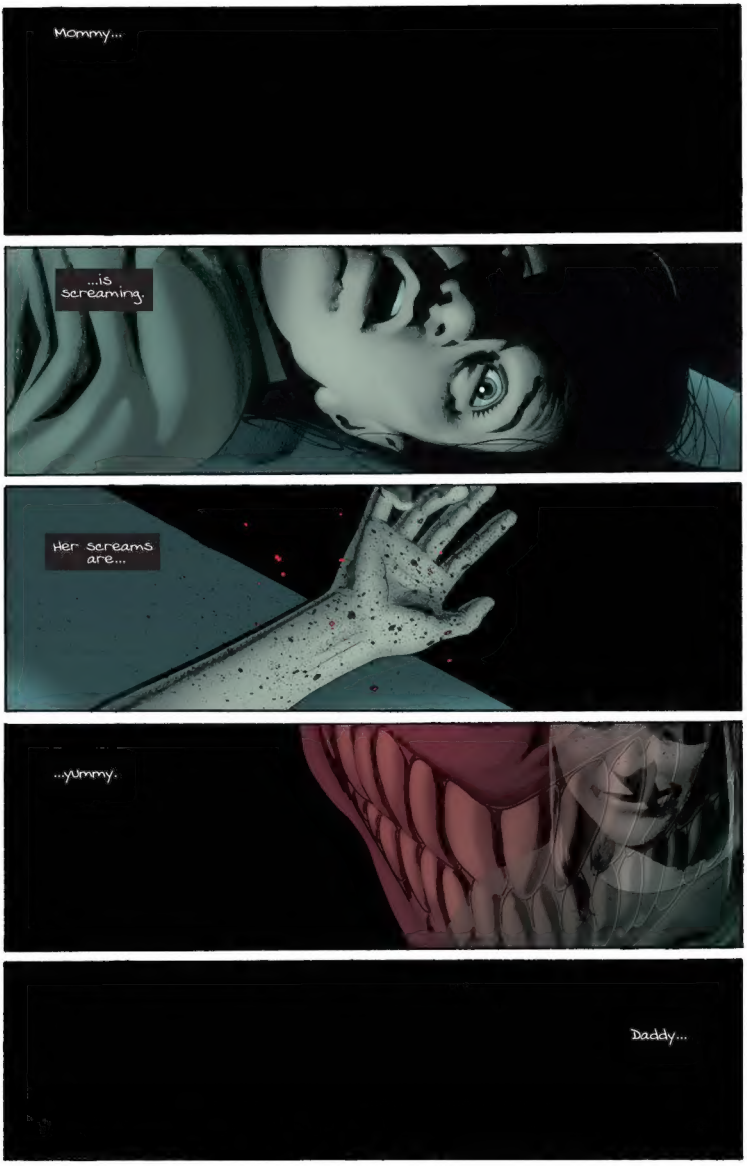
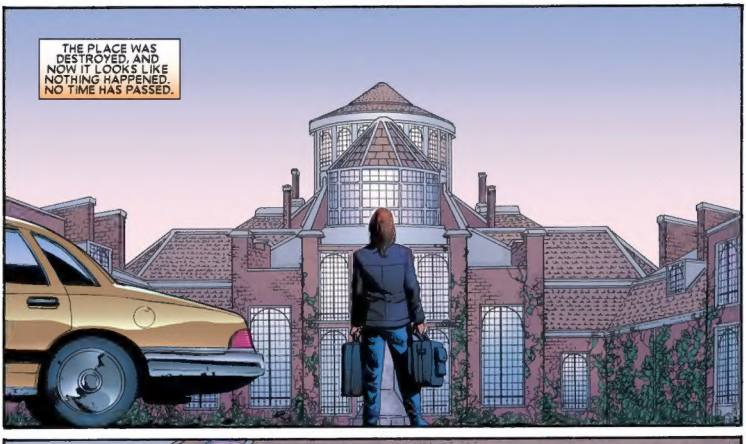
MARVEL
PSR 1
JOSS WHEDON
JOHN CASSADAY
ASTONISHING
X-MEN


Mommy...
...is screaming.
Her screams are...
...yummy.
Daddy...

....is next...
VEEDA!
VEEDA!
TILDIE, SWEETIE, I'M RIGHT HERE...
IT CAME BACK!
IT WAS JUST A DREAM, TILDIE.
I DON'T WANT IT TO COME BACK!
IT NEVER WILL, TILDIE.
IT NEVER EVER WILL.

GIFTED

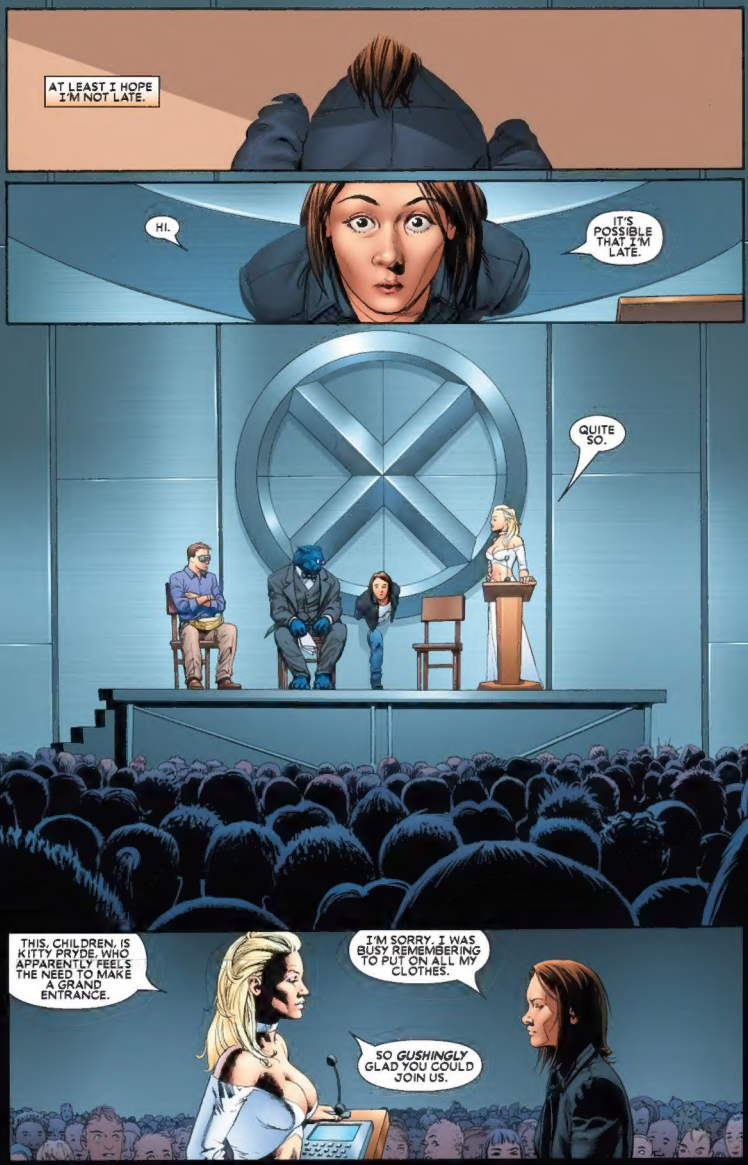
NOTHING HAS CHANGED.


THE PLACE WAS DESTROYED, AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED. NO TIME HAS PASSED.

WE CAN SEND YOUR FURNITURE AFTER YOU, OR HOME TO DEERFIELD.
NO. KEEP IT HERE. I INTEND TO VISIT YOU GUYS EVERY CHANCE I GET.

OF COURSE THE PROFESSOR WOULD HAVE IT REBUILT THIS WAY. GIVE EVERYONE A SENSE OF STABILITY. CONTINUITY.
NOTHING HAS CHANGED.
NOT EVEN ME.
PROFESSOR XAVIER IS A JERK!
I'M A KID AGAIN, OUT OF MY DEPTH-- COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY EVERYTHING HERE AND IT ISN'T THE SIDRI, OR SENTINELS, OR THE BROOD THAT SURROUND ME...
IT'S THE SMALLER PIECES.

SHARDS.
OF ME.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, SEXY.
KITTY!


AT LEAST I HOPE I'M NOT LATE.
HI.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I'M LATE.
QUITE SO.
THIS, CHILDREN, IS KITTY PRYDE, WHO APPARENTLY FEELS THE NEED TO MAKE A GRAND ENTRANCE.
I'M SORRY. I WAS BUSY REMEMBERING TO PUT ON ALL MY CLOTHES.
SO *GUSHINGLY* GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.

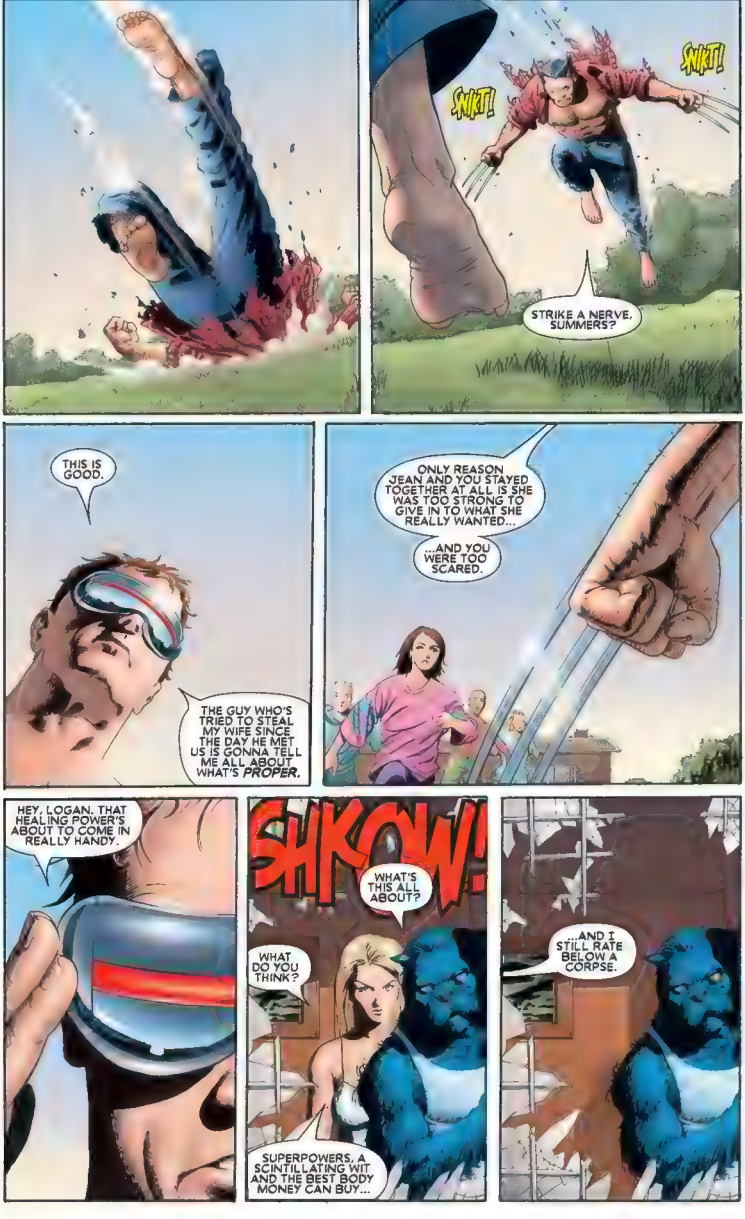
MISS PRYDE WILL BE TEACHING ADVANCED COMPUTATIONAL THEORY, AS WELL AS ACTING AS A STUDENT ADVISOR AND LIAISON TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.
IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU.
SORRY ABOUT THE TIMING. DID I MISS THE SORTING HAT?
JUST SCOTT'S SCINTILLATING INTRODUCTION SPEECH.
EVEN I WAS BORED.
SINCE PROFESSOR XAVIER IS AWAY ON SABBATICAL, MR. SUMMERS AND MYSELF WILL BE ACTING HEADS OF SCHOOL.
DOCTOR McCOY AND MISS PRYDE WILL ROUND OUT THE SENIOR STAFF ALONG WITH LOGAN, WHO IS... ELSEWHERE.
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN, "ELSEWHERE"?
IT MEANS WE'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO "ELSE".
NOW.
THIS IS A PLACE OF LEARNING. NOT JUST ABOUT YOUR MUTANT GIFTS, BUT ABOUT THE WORLD. RESPECT FOR YOUR TEACHERS, MUTANT AND HUMAN ALIKE, WILL BE EXPECTED OF ALL OF YOU.
CONTROL OF YOUR POWERS, THE SAFETY OF THOSE AROUND YOU, IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.
VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND WILL NEVER BE TOLERATED.

DANGER ROOM
ENVIRONMENT: AUDITORIUM
SIMULATION: SCENARIO 274
END
SO...
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

WE HAVE LEARNED THE FIRST LESSON.
THEY WILL ALWAYS HATE US.
WE WILL NEVER LIVE IN A WORLD OF PEACE.
WHICH IS WHY CONTROL AND NON-VIOLENCE ARE ESSENTIAL. WE MUST PROVE OURSELVES A PEACEFUL PEOPLE.
WE MUST GIVE THE ORDINARY HUMANS RESPECT, COMPLIANCE, AND UNDERSTANDING.
AND WE MUST NEVER MISTAKE THAT FOR TRUST.
YOU SHOULD HAVE WARNED ME YOU WERE GONNA DO THAT.
YOU WOULD HAVE SAID NO.
AMONG OTHER THINGS...

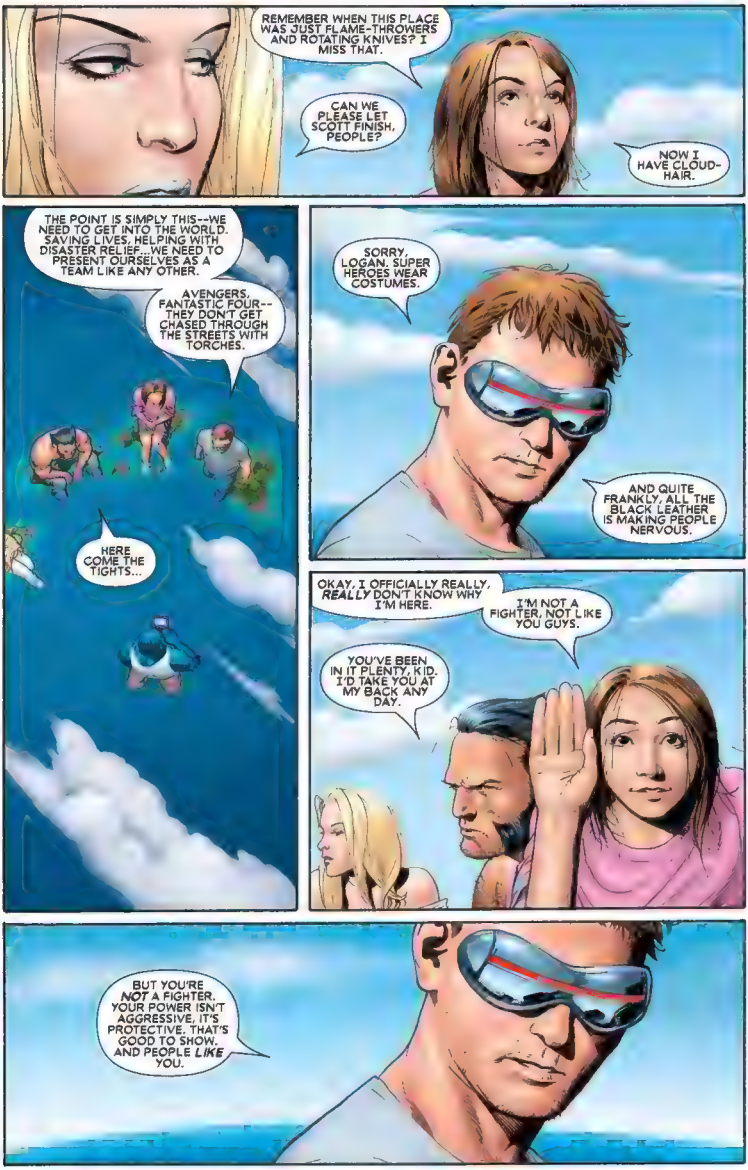
I SCANNED THE STUDENTS. NEARLY TEN PERCENT OF THEM WERE MORE THAN A LITTLE EXCITED AT THE PROSPECT OF A FIGHT. I THOUGHT WE SHOULD KNOW...
WHICH ONES WERE--
I'M NOT XAVIER, SCOTT. I'LL GO THROUGH THE ROSTER, TRY TO NARROW IT DOWN.
TOMORROW.
SO TELL ME...

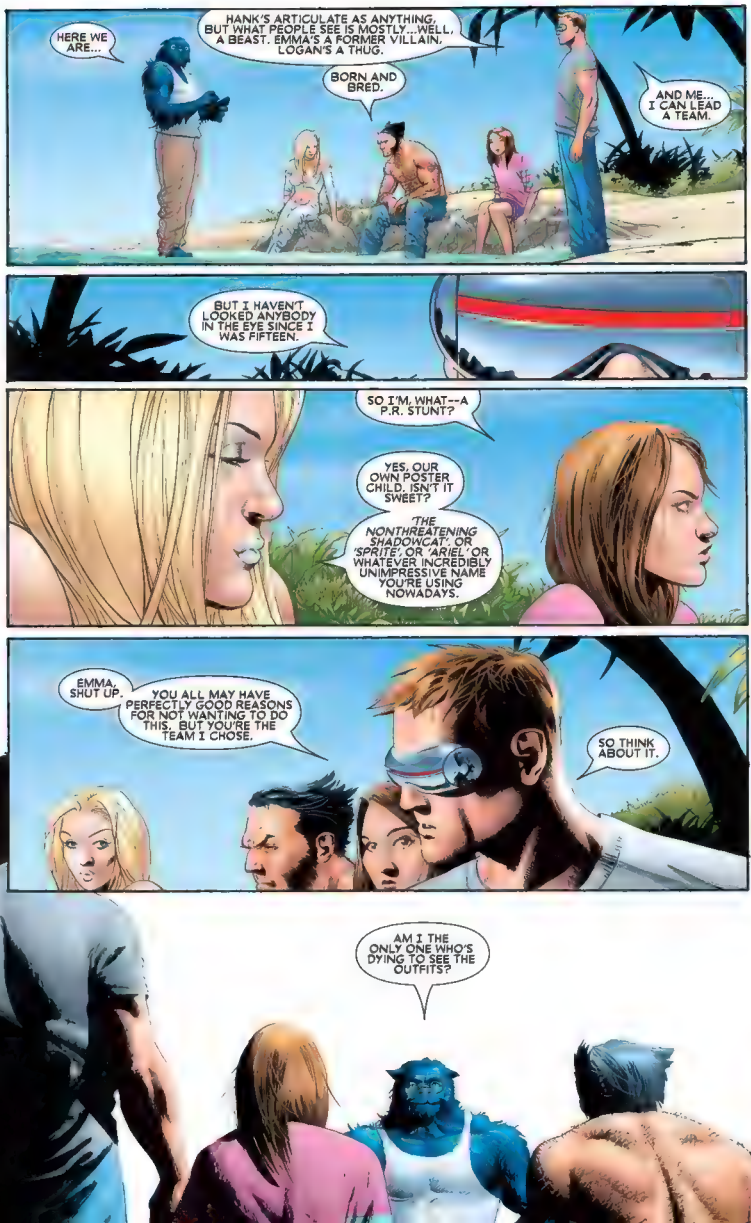
...WHICH STAGE OF GRIEVING IS THIS?
DENIAL?
SHKOW!


SNIKT!
SNIKT!
STRIKE A NERVE, SUMMERS?
THIS IS GOOD.
THE GUY WHO'S TRIED TO STEAL MY WIFE SINCE THE DAY HE MET US IS GONNA TELL ME ALL ABOUT WHAT'S PROPER.
ONLY REASON JEAN AND YOU STAYED TOGETHER AT ALL IS SHE WAS TOO STRONG TO GIVE IN TO WHAT SHE REALLY WANTED...
...AND YOU WERE TOO SCARED.
HEY, LOGAN. THAT HEALING POWER'S ABOUT TO COME IN REALLY HANDY.
SHKOW!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SUPERPOWERS, A SCINTILLATING WIT AND THE BEST BODY MONEY CAN BUY...
...AND I STILL RATE BELOW A CORPSE.

"AND IN FRONT OF THE STUDENTS!"
AS IF EMMA'S LITTLE GAME YESTERDAY DIDN'T WIND THEM UP ENOUGH, THEY HAVE TO SEE THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER!
YOU TWO SHOULD BE LONG PAST THAT NONSENSE! WHERE ON EARTH DID IT COME FROM?
I'M NOT APOLOGIZING TO LOGAN, AND I WOULDN'T ACCEPT ONE IN RETURN.
SCOTT, YOU'RE ACTING HEAD OF THE --
IT WAS INEXCUSABLE, I AGREE. AND IT'S GOING TO MAKE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY ALL THE MORE ABSURD.
BUT I'M GOING TO SAY IT ANYWAY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WE'RE A TEAM.
WE'RE A SUPER HERO TEAM.
AND I THINK IT'S TIME WE STARTED ACTING LIKE ONE.
HO, WHOA, WAIT...
IS THIS GONNA BE ABOUT TIGHTS?
IT'S ABOUT EVERYTHING. TRUTH, PERCEPTION...
WE'VE SAVED THE WORLD--WORLDS, EVEN--TIME AND AGAIN. THAT'S THE TRUTH. THAT'S WHAT WE DO.
BUT THE PERCEPTION IS THAT WE'RE FREAKS, OR WORSE. THAT WE'RE MAGNETOS WAITING TO HAPPEN.
WE'VE BEEN TAKING IT ON THE CHIN SO LONG, JUST TRYING TO KEEP FROM BEING WIPED OUT. I THINK WE'VE FORGOTTEN THAT WE HAVE A PURPOSE.
I KNOW THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS FORGOTTEN.
ACK! THIS IS--IS THIS LIKE A THEME THING, US BEING SO BIG?
ACTUALLY, THAT'S ME.
I PROGRAMMED THE DANGER ROOM TO REPLICATE HAWAII BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD RELAX OUR COMBATANTS. IT APPEARS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT SCALE.


REMEMBER WHEN THIS PLACE WAS JUST FLAME-THROWERS AND ROTATING KNIVES? I MISS THAT.
CAN WE PLEASE LET SCOTT FINISH, PEOPLE?
NOW I HAVE CLOUD-HAIR.
THE POINT IS SIMPLY THIS--WE NEED TO GET INTO THE WORLD. SAVING LIVES. HELPING WITH DISASTER RELIEF...WE NEED TO PRESENT OURSELVES AS A TEAM LIKE ANY OTHER.
AVENGERS, FANTASTIC FOUR--THEY DON'T GET CHASED THROUGH THE STREETS WITH TORCHES.
HERE COME THE TIGHTS...
SORRY, LOGAN. SUPER HEROES WEAR COSTUMES.
AND QUITE FRANKLY, ALL THE BLACK LEATHER IS MAKING PEOPLE NERVOUS.
OKAY. I OFFICIALLY REALLY, *REALLY* DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HERE.
I'M NOT A FIGHTER, NOT LIKE YOU GUYS.
YOU'VE BEEN IN IT PLENTY, KID. I'D TAKE YOU AT MY BACK ANY DAY.
BUT YOU'RE *NOT* A FIGHTER. YOUR POWER ISN'T AGGRESSIVE, IT'S PROTECTIVE. THAT'S GOOD TO SHOW. AND PEOPLE *LIKE* YOU.


HERE WE ARE...
HANK'S ARTICULATE AS ANYTHING, BUT WHAT PEOPLE SEE IS MOSTLY...WELL, A BEAST. EMMA'S A FORMER VILLAIN, LOGAN'S A THUG.
BORN AND BRED.
AND ME... I CAN LEAD A TEAM.
BUT I HAVEN'T LOOKED ANYBODY IN THE EYE SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN.
SO I'M, WHAT--A P.R. STUNT?
YES. OUR OWN POSTER CHILD. ISN'T IT SWEET?
'THE NONTHREATENING SHADOWCAT'. OR 'SPRITE'. OR 'ARIEL'. OR WHATEVER INCREDIBLY UNIMPRESSIVE NAME YOU'RE USING NOWADAYS.
EMMA, SHUT UP.
YOU ALL MAY HAVE PERFECTLY GOOD REASONS FOR NOT WANTING TO DO THIS. BUT YOU'RE THE TEAM I CHOSE.
SO THINK ABOUT IT.
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DYING TO SEE THE OUTFITS?

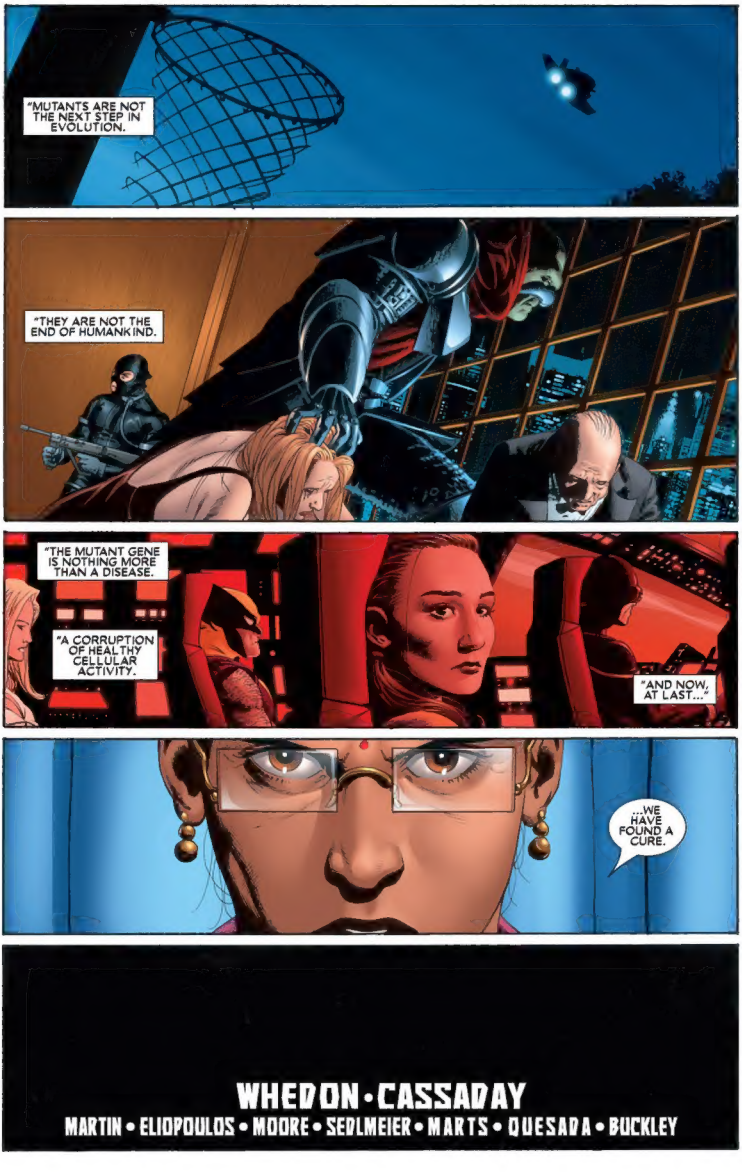
PLEASE TAKE THAT AWAY. I'M NOT GOING TO GET ANY PRETTIER.
DOC, YOU'RE ABOUT TO CHANGE THE WORLD. YOU GOTTA LOOK GLAM!
THERE'S GOTTA BE A HUNDRED REPORTERS OUT THERE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TILDIE? YOU'RE NOT SCARED?
DO I GET TO SIT NEAR YOU?
PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING RENOWNED GENETICIST DOCTOR KAVITA RAO...
YOU SEE SOMETHING, KID?
LOCKHEED WANTED TO FLY ON HIS OWN. I THOUGHT HE'D BEAT ME HERE...
THE DRAGON'LL SHOW.
I DID.
BIG ENTRANCE.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. WASN'T PLANNING IT, I JUST...SOMETIMES I GO OFF MORE, SINCE...
I KNOW.
SUPER HEROES.
SUMMERS HAS GOTTA BE NUTS.

WHAT IS A MUTANT?
EVERYBODY ON THE GROUND! NOW! NOW!
YOU WANNA BULLET? YOU WANNA BULLET IN YOUR SKULL?
-- WORD YET ON THE HOSTAGE SITUATION IN THE CHAPMAN BUILDING. BUT THE FBI HAVE CORDONED OFF A FOUR BLOCK RADIUS --

NOW OR NEVER...
THEY'VE BEEN CALLED ANGELS, AND DEVILS... THEY'VE COMMITTED ATROCITIES, AND BEEN VICTIM TO ATROCITIES THEMSELVES. THEY'VE BEEN LABELED MONSTERS, AND NOT WITHOUT REASON.
BUT I WILL TELL YOU WHAT MUTANTS ARE.
NO DOUBT YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT IT IS WE WANT.
YOUR MONEY. YOUR DAUGHTERS. YOUR FLESH, PEELED AND ROASTED.
MAYBE WE'RE FANATICS.
OR MAYBE WE'RE JUST BORED.

MUTANTS ARE PEOPLE. NO BETTER OR WORSE BY NATURE THAN ANYBODY ELSE. JUST PEOPLE.
PEOPLE WITH A DISEASE.
SNIKT!
TIME TO MAKE NICE WITH THE PUBLIC, EH, SUMMERS?
WE HAVE TO DO MORE THAN THAT, LOGAN.

WE HAVE TO ASTONISH THEM.


"MUTANTS ARE NOT THE NEXT STEP IN EVOLUTION.
"THEY ARE NOT THE END OF HUMANKIND.
"THE MUTANT GENE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A DISEASE.
"A CORRUPTION OF HEALTHY CELLULAR ACTIVITY.
"AND NOW, AT LAST..."
...WE HAVE FOUND A CURE.
WHEDON • CASSADAY
MARTIN • ELIOPOULOS • MOORE • SEDLMEIER • MARTS • QUESADA • BUCKLEY

Megan

Empire